

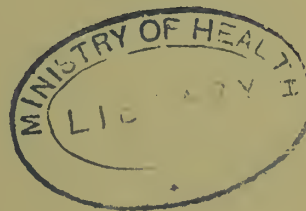
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DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1952

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H. M. DAVIES.

M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

ASHBURTON U.D.C.

DAWLISH U.D.C.

NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.

NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.

TELEPHONE No. 715/8

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD,

NEWTON ABBOT.

DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT - 1952.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report for the year ending 31st. December, 1952. The general state of the Public Health in Dawlish remains satisfactory. The Death Rate, after being 'standardised' to allow for the fact that the average age of the population in this town is higher than it is in the large industrial districts of the Country, is considerably below the Death rate for the whole of England and Wales. Another very gratifying feature of the report is that there have been no deaths recorded in infants under one year during 1952. This is the first year in which this has occurred in Dawlish.

The Birth Rate, even after 'standardisation' remains much below the National Level.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases reported is very low. This low figure is due largely to the fact that no cases of Measles were reported as opposed to the 99 cases which occurred last year.

One case of Paratyphoid B. was reported. As I stated in my last report, an occasional case of Paratyphoid B. appears to have been a regular feature of the Medical Officer's report for many years.past.

No cases of Acute Poliomyelitis or Food Poisoning were reported.

It is now years since a case of Diphtheria was reported in Dawlish. This is due to the success of the Immunisation campaign which has been carried out for the past ten years. The need for Immunisation persists if this freedom from Diphtheria is to remain.



The condition of many of the dwellings on some of the older caravan sites remains very poor. In my opinion, many of these 'houses', as they are defined in the statutes, are little more than shacks and are quite unfit for human habitation at the present time. I would like very much to see steps taken to effect an improvement, but it seems that progress is inevitably going to be very slow until alternative accommodation is more easily available in the district.

I should like to thank the Chairman, Councillors, and all members of the staff for help and co-operation received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

31st. August, 1953.



# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) .....	6,091
Population Mid - 1952 .....	7,019
Population 1951 Census .....	7,512
Rateable value as at 1st. January, 1952 ..... £.	51,491
Rateable value as at 31st. December, 1952 ..... £.	51,544
Product of 1d. rate (as at 1st. April, 1952) ..... £.	211

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	31	40	71
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	----	----	----
	32	41	73
	----	----	----
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			10.40
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			11.96
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			13.59
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			14.95
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			15.3

### STILL BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still Birth rate per 1000 total population			0.28
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births			26.67
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births England and Wales			22.6



## DEATHS

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 74.31 years. It is of interest to note that the average age of all male deaths was 72.17 years and for female deaths 76.08.years. This variance is much greater than is found in England and Wales where the average age for female deaths is only about 2 years higher than that for males.

Male.	Female.	Total.
41	47	88.
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population		12.54
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population		8.78
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population		
Administrative County of Devon		13.59
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population		
Administrative County of Devon		10.33
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales		11.3

### Infant Mortality.

(Death of Infants under One year)

No deaths were registered in infants under the age of one year during 1952.

Infant Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	25.82
Corresponding rate England and Wales	27.6

### Neo-Natal Mortality.

(Death of Infants under 4 weeks of age)

No deaths were registered in infants under four weeks of age during 1952.

Neo-Natal Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon	19.69
Corresponding rate for England and Wales	18.9

### Maternal Mortality.

No maternal deaths have occurred during the past year. The Maternal Mortality rate for the Administrative County of Devon is 1.02, seven cases having occurred within the County.



AGE AT DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
Infants under 4 weeks	-	-
Infants under 1 year	-	-
1 -	-	-
5 -	-	-
15 -	-	-
25 -	-	-
45 -	11	9
65 -	14	7
75 and over	16	31
	-----	-----
	41	47
	-----	-----

Total: 88.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
All causes	41	47
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	8	8
Coronary Disease, angina	5	3
Hypertension with heart disease	-	2
Other heart disease	9	8
Other circulatory disease	4	11
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2
	-----	-----
c/fwd.	34	37



CAUSES OF DEATH (contd.)

	Male.	Female.
b/fwd.	34	37
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	9
Accidents (other than motor vehicle)	1	-
	----- 41	----- 47

Total: 88

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	2	1	3
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Whooping Cough	4	2	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	1
Paratyphoid B.	1	-	1
	----- 9	----- 6	----- 15

Total: 15.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Seven cases of respiratory and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. No cases were reported in children under 15 years of age. Details of cases are set out in the following table:-

AGE PERIODS.CASES.

	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
15 -	-	2	-	-
25 -	3	1	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	1
65 -	-	-	-	-
75 and over	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	1	-	-	-
	----- 4	----- 3	----- -	----- 1

Total: 8.



### HOUSING.

Action, both informal and formal, continues to be taken regarding unfit or defective houses.

Licensees of requisitioned premises are gradually being re-housed in new homes and the requisitioned premises surrendered.

With the acquisition of the Cricket Field Housing Site and the provision thereon of eighty houses of the two and three bedroomed type under the Council's three year forward programme it is anticipated this will considerably ease the needs of those mostly requiring decent living conditions.

### WATER SUPPLY

All samples of water which were taken for bacteriological examination during the year were satisfactory: all being reported as 'Class I' of the Ministry of Health's classification for piped supplies.

No restrictions of Water Supply were necessary at any time in the year.

### SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Occasional reports of fouling of the beaches near the sewage outfall works continue to be received.

The Council's Consulting Engineers continued with the preparation of detailed plans and drawings for submission to the Ministry of Health for approval.

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